

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 L-03 IO-13 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 TRSE-00 SSO-00

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P R 211205Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4254

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ((TEXT))

DEPT PASS FAA

PARIS FOR FAA/PIERRE

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TS

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. BELIEVE EMBASSY IN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION VIS-A-VIS REF PROBLEM IN THAT FAA TEAM FROM BRUSSELS SCHEDULED TO HOLD TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS IN TUNIS BEGINNING 27 SEPT. AS HAS BEEN STATED IN PREVIOUS TRAFFIC, WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH TUNISIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES, OFFICERS OF TUNIS AIR, AND OFFICIALS OF TUNISIAN AIRPORTS (OPAT) AT THAT TIME, AMONG WHICH WILL BE AIRPORT SECURITY AND PASSENGER SAFETY.

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2. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT, AT REQUEST OF ABDELMAJID BOUSLAMA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SURETE NATIONALE, FORMER RSO PREPARED FOR GOT (COPY POUCHED TO DEPT IN SEPT 1975) COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF THE

PHYSICAL LAYOUT AND SECURITY PRACTICES FOLLOWED AT TUNIS/CARTHAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. GENERAL FINDINGS OF REPORT INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH SECURITY PROCEDURES WERE BASICALLY SOUND, THERE WAS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. REPORT RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC CHANGES IN PRACTICES EMPLOYED, ADDITION OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED PERSONNEL, AND SOME ARCHITECTURAL ALTERATIONS DESIGNED TO REROUTE PASSENGER FLOW. UNFORTUNATELY, AS FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE, NONE OF THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES HAVE YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

3. BELIEVE FINDINGS OF SECURITY SURVEY ARE DETAILED, CURRENT, AND AUTHORITATIVE. REPORT REPRESENTS EVALUATION OF GOT NEEDS AND EMBASSY BELIEVES ITS CONTENTS ARE RESPONSIVE TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, FAA TEAM WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW APPLICABILITY ABOVE SECURITY SURVEY WITH TUNISIANS AND DISCUSS THEIR OWN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR NEEDS. IF IN FACT FAA AND GOT VIEW FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE USEFUL TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT TUNIS AIRPORT, OR IF A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPEARS ADVISABLE, SUCH ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN TUNISIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES AND FAA.

4. FAA SEMINAR PRESENTATION TO TUNISIANS INCLUDES SECURITY ONLY AS ONE ITEM AMONG MANY. THEREFORE EMBASSY OFFICER, AT APPROPRIATE POINT DURING SEMINAR, INTENDS TO APPROACH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION MERCHAOU, WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE, TO STRESS FURTHER IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS AND USG CONCERN THIS SUBJECT. (MEMBER OF FAA TEAM MAY WISH TO JOIN IN APPROACH.) WE WILL THUS HAVE OPPORTUNITY OF BRINGING UP THIS ISSUE IN CONTEXT OF SEMINAR WHICH ITSELF REFLECTS USG COMMITMENT TO ACTION AS WELL AS WORDS.

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5. WILL MAKE COPIES OF SECURITY SURVEY AVAILABLE TO FAA TEAM UPON ARRIVAL TUNIS.
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